



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 7, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Deirdre Kvale, Mike Feldmann, Jahn Dyvik, and Gina Joyce

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

Last weekend, the Orono Lions Club had a great turn out for their 36th annual Snowball Open event held at Birch's on the Lake.

The Council met in a work session prior to the regular meeting at which they primarily discussed Fire Department matters.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Dyvik, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- B. Approve the Updated Election Equipment License Agreement Effective March 1, 2023 through February 28, 2031 between the city of Long Lake and Hennepin County
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-07 Approving Final Pay Request #5 to Hydro-Klean, LLC in the Amount of \$16,204.08 for the District 4 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Presentation Regarding Long Lake's Counter Proposal to Orono's Offer for the Transition of the Long Lake Fire Department to Orono

Mayor Miner reported that the City had sent a letter to Orono on January 27, 2023 that laid out a few options for consideration related to the Fire Department. He asked Council member Dyvik to give a summary presentation of what was included in the correspondence from the City.

Council member Dyvik provided a review of past discussions that had happened between Long Lake and Orono regarding the Long Lake Fire Department and the buyout offer received from Orono in September 2022. He stated that Long Lake had submitted a counteroffer to Orono via a letter on January 27, 2023. He overviewed the details of the City's counteroffer, including an Option A and Option B; and outlined the benefits of the proposed terms for Long Lake, Orono, firefighters, and the community. He mentioned that the letter that was sent to Orono can be found on the City's website.

Mayor Miner indicated that the last City Council meeting had been held January 24, 2023 and most of the details from the letter were discussed during the Council's work session on that date. Earlier tonight, Council members agreed that they wanted to make sure they were transparent in their communication and that each Council member would share a short synopsis of what they thought about the counteroffer letter. He stated that what he liked most about the terms of the letter was that it would result in having the ability to keep the firefighters together, because that is what the firefighters want. He also was supportive of Long Lake maintaining ownership of Station #1. He explained that he thinks it is clear to most people that the future will involve some sort of a Fire District; but, overall, he was in support of the letter. He noted that he preferred Option A as outlined, which would be the scenario of a partnership model and a jointly operated Fire Department.

Council member Joyce voiced that her thoughts echo many of what Mayor Miner already shared. Her preference would be for Option A also in order to have a joint ownership/district format. She indicated that what was important to her from the counteroffer was that if Orono chooses Option B, that a contract under that option not start until after the current contract expires. She added that it is also important to her that the City is able to maintain some of its Fire Department history and memorabilia.

Council member Dyvik commented that he wanted the City to be able to have 'skin in the game' with maintaining ownership of the Station 1 building. If a fire district were to materialize in the future, then the City would have something to bring to the table.

Council member Feldmann agreed that the partnership aspect of Option A was what he felt things were moving towards last year before negotiations were halted. He observed that if Orono is really interested in pursuing a partnership, he would be all for it. Regarding Option B, one thing that was important to him was to recognize the nature of starting the business and noted that the cost of entering into providing fire service is very expensive and he felt a 10-year service term was too short. He reflected that it was of importance that there be assurance for a longer-term contract option.

Council member Dyvik clarified that Option A of the counteroffer would also be his preference and added that he was in support of the letter that had been drafted in response to Orono's offer.

Council member Feldmann stated that he was also supportive of the letter that was sent to Orono as it stands.

Council member Kvale shared that she was also in support of Option A of being a partnership and had pushed hard for that to be included in the letter to Orono. Regarding the Option B proposal, she would echo what Mayor Miner said - that fire districts are the future. Because there is still time left on the existing contract, she would prefer no new agreement begin until the current contract has expired. She added that she does not understand the push to accept terms of a contract right now when there is already an existing contract. She noted that Long Lake is not the one that has been pushing to separate the firefighters. She expressed some possible concerns and issues with

the City being a landlord under the Option B scenario, and reiterated that she strongly supported Option A.

Mayor Miner advised that at this point, the City will need to wait and see what they hear back from Orono. Orono City Council's next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2023.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Miner reported that the interview process for filling the City's vacant Fire Chief position is still moving forward. The next Fire Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

Snowball Open - Council member Joyce echoed Mayor Miner's earlier statement that the Snowball Open was a really great event, and shared that she had a lot of fun participating.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator